

Whig & Chronicle.Knoxville Whig Established 1839.
Knoxville Chronicle Established 1870.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1875.

FIELD AND FARM.**To Plow or not to Plow.**

A correspondent of the *Prairie Farmer* argues against the ancient practice of plowing. I am inclined to think non-inversion, complete pulverization and surface manuring that is the natural decay of vegetable growth is best for continued fertility. In fact, I have commenced to practice this theory: I planted 60 acres of corn the last season, plowing but 2 acres, the balance I broke with spading plow and the cultivator, leaving the broken stalks on the surface. This result was average crops, as good as on the best plowed land, but not satisfactory, owing to the unprecedented drought and the universal chinch bug. I shall try again and report in due season.

I am satisfied of one thing, the man who will give us a machine that will cut and pulverize perfectly, mix soil and trash, will prove a public benefactor. I want that machine. The idea is not very popular as yet, but let us investigate; let us get at the facts. My object in writing this is to hear from somebody. Let us find the better way. Talk about political economy! I can think of no question of more vital importance than the preservation of our soils. The bone and sinew we hear so much about and the vast interests of the mighty West all depend upon the integrity of our soils. Tell us what the chemists say about the laws of fertilization, the changes mechanically, chemically or otherwise, what experimenters have had to say on this subject, and oblige many like myself who are struggling for temporal salvation by agriculture.

Clover Turned Under.

Mr. J. Gregory a few years ago moved from Tennessee and bought a plantation in Murray County, Georgia. The land at the time he purchased it, with a good season, would produce ten bushels of wheat per acre. In October Mr. Gregory sowed broadcast fifteen acres of white Broughton wheat, one bushel to the acre, and in February following he sowed the same ground in red clover, sowing broadcast in two ways, one bushel to eight acres. He harvested ten bushels of wheat per acre, and cut a fine crop of hay the same season. The next year he mowed two crops of good clover hay, averaging two tons per acre. The third crop grew up from four to eight inches high, and in October he plowed the clover under, plowing deep and subsoiling; sowed one bushel of white Broughton wheat per acre. The result was a fine crop of thirty and one-half bushels of wheat per acre. Thus, you will see, that manure used to improve the land and half bushels of wheat were all that could only raise of clover and subsoil—*Rural Southland*.

Manure Value of Wood Ashes.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* premises an article on the fertilizing of a prairie. "The prairie," he says, "owes its value to the potash left after the land is burned over, as is the case also in breaking the prairie." While the *Western Herald* would hardly like to assent to this as a proposition, it does not deny that potash and its combinations are among the most important constituents of the soil. The correspondent, after noting some observations made relative to the application of ashes, says:

"In the strongest garden soil I have noticed it, and also in very poor land. Unleached ashes have a more marked effect, showing the importance of potash as manure. The tests that have been made, so far as I am cognizant, always show that the growth, especially of grass, corresponds to the amount of ashes applied; and the amount may be large—seventy or eighty bushels per acre, and even more. The benefit will show at once, but not all of it, as the ashes do not give up at once all they contain, being slowly dissolved, so as to supply potash for several years. This is my experience, and, I believe, the uniform experience of every one. The reason why ashes are not more highly valued is that they are too sparingly used. When sown on meadows, a few bushels to the acre are all that are used. As but a part are dissolved the first year, it will be readily seen that the effect must be small—less so than that of plaster, though plaster is one of the ingredients of ashes."

The Value of Red Clover as a Fertilizer.

A correspondent of the *Southern Planter and Farmer* says he has ascertained by fifty-four years' farm experience that red clover is the basis of all permanent improvement on Southern lands. If plaster acts well it should be plentifully supplied to the clover lands, and he never knew a good clover ley that did not make a good crop of wheat. Clover is manure both above and under the surface; its roots are large, run deep and bring up plant-food from the subsoil that has been washed in below the reach of ordinary weathering, fixes nitrogen in the soil during every stage of its growth, and nitrogen is the specific manure for the wheat crop. A good crop of clover has been estimated as the equivalent for twenty bushels of ordinary manure for an acre of land. Plaster does not always benefit the wheat, but it helps the clover. It is true that clover is a lime plant that does best on the fossiliferous limestone lands. George Giddens, of Onondaga N.Y., has some debts that have been dropped more than fifty years, with no other manure than clover and plaster. He says a crop of corn raised on a clover ley needs but little hoing, if the cultivator is used to keep the surface open to the light showers and dew.

Facts Worth Remembering.

One thousand shingles laid four inches to the weather will cover one hundred square feet of surface, and five pounds of shingle nails will fasten them on.

One-fifth more siding and flooring is needed than the number of square feet of surface to be covered, because of the lap in the siding and matching of the floor.

One thousand lathe will cover seventy yards of surface, and eleven pounds of lathe nails will nail them on.

Eight bushels of good lime, sixteen bushels of sand, and one bushel of hair, will make enough mortar to plaster one hundred square yards.

Five courses of brick will lay one foot in height on a chimney, six bricks in a course will make a due four inches wide and twelve inches long, and eight inches wide and sixteen inches long.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

Special or General Farming.

It is said by those who advocate a great diversity of crops that its advantage lies in having a certainty upon some one of the many crops cultivated. On the other hand the benefit of special farming is that capital, labor and study can be concentrated upon one or more crops and greater profit secured.

Farming is quite like other callings, and the great variety of stock to be bred, the wide range of crops that may be grown, precludes the possibility of a farmer with ordinary capital undertaking to breed and grow for profit all of them.

All lines of trade and commerce and the professions indicate specialties as leading more directly toward success. The farmer of to-day is not raising his crops for the supply of his family; he is growing them for profit, and every element of economy, every condition that assists in decreasing first cost, is a help towards the desired end.

The position we assume is that every farmer enhances his chance of success who, having made a judicious selection of such branches of agriculture as he is best qualified to follow, secures land and a market adapted to his business, and devotes himself to his business in a business way for profit. The man, for instance, who undertakes the breeding and raising of stock, making all his crops conform to the branch, upon which he depends for his income, will, by giving the subject study, be enabled to not only raise his stock more economically, but have a clearer knowledge of markets than the farmer who has divided his capital, his labor and study upon a dozen different things.

Work on the "Buncombe," which was seriously damaged by the fire, is being pushed forward with energy, and trains will soon go through regularly to Wolf Creek.

Your correspondent learns that the flood washed up some human bones of enormous size, on the farm of Caleb Crosby, who resides on the north bank of the Holston, just below Marshall's Ferry. The bones of one of the skeletons is said to be of unusual size, and is supposed to have been of a man fully seven feet in height. It is not known from what point they come.

Our people are anxious about the passage of the option liquor law by the Legislature, but our Sojons are so slow, that many of us are losing faith, can't you stir them up on this question?

MORRISTOWN ITEMS.

MORRISTOWN, March 10.

To the Editors of the Chronicle:

The "egg business" has been a lively one in our town for ten days past, one enterprising dealer having shipped about 100 barrels, containing on an average 65 dozen eggs to each barrel. Business in other "produce" has been dull.

The municipal investigation is holding forth nightly at the courthouse, but as yet nothing has been discovered of an startling nature.

The waters have subsided, and everybody is preparing to go to work. This is especially the case with farmers, who find the roads so bad that they can't "go anywhere;" so, perchance, they remain at home all work.

The demimonde of our town are having things made pretty lively for them now. Unknown parties are rocking their shanties almost every night, and they are finding it a difficult matter to get houses within which to live.

The "coming through" of the mails created a sensation, and everybody enjoyed the intelligence brought us from the outside world. Our people can appreciate railroads after having been deprived of their benefits for a few days.

Work on the "Buncombe," which was seriously damaged by the fire, is being pushed forward with energy, and trains will soon go through regularly to Wolf Creek.

Your correspondent learns that the flood washed up some human bones of enormous size, on the farm of Caleb Crosby, who resides on the north bank of the Holston, just below Marshall's Ferry. The bones of one of the skeletons is said to be of unusual size, and is supposed to have been of a man fully seven feet in height. It is not known from what point they come.

Our people are anxious about the passage of the option liquor law by the Legislature, but our Sojons are so slow, that many of us are losing faith, can't you stir them up on this question?

Yours, NINO HARTS.

Keeping Manure.

The Boston Journal of Chemistry says that the sources of loss in the storage of manure are two: first, the escape of volatile ammonia and other gases, and secondly, the loss of valuable salts by leaching. The first difficulty may be obviated by covering the excrement with eight or ten inches of good soil or loam, which will absorb all escaping gases. A bushel or so of plaster may be advantageously scattered over the heap before the soil is thrown on. The whole mass should be perfectly covered, leaving no "chimney" for gaseous exudation. The danger of leaching may be avoided by covering the heap with hay or straw sufficiently thick to shed most of the rain. If kept in this way a sufficient time, the manure will undergo spontaneous decomposition, the products of which will be ready for immediate assimilation by plants. The new RPPM fails to waste, by 65% or the above processes, some of their most valuable constituents.

To be used as a fumigator, it is necessary to remove the ashes. Take a small vessel, mix a little saltpetre with the sulphur in an iron vessel, and apply a match to the mixture.

The Old Horse.

The Poughkeepsie Press gives an account of a horse owned by General Crugers, of West Point in 1840, and then of considerable age, remarkable as being the finest parade horse in the State.

He was a model of beauty, large and powerful, long, silvery mane and tail. His age at that time is not known. General Crugers, on leaving West Point, sold the horse for a large sum to Martin Van Buren, and he used him as his favorite saddle horse, during his retirement in Kinderhook in 1844. In 1846, Mr. Van Buren and some of his friends presented "Old Tom" to a distinguished young officer in General Scott's command, and he was taken to Mexico. At the close of the war, General Scott had the horse returned to New York, and rode him frequently on parades. In 1851 he was purchased by the American Express Company in New York at a large price, to match a similar horse, and the pair were the admiration of the Express people. He was used there for five years, and then sent to Poughkeepsie, where "Old Tom" used to cart the express for ten years. While in the hands of the Express Company here, "Tom" had some narrow escapes. Once, in driving across the track at the depot, his foot caught fast in a frog, and a train approaching ran within a few feet of him before it was stopped. To extricate his foot, the entire frog and rail had to be taken up. In 1859, Tom began to show his old age, and the Express Company directed him to be sold to a party who would give him good care. Mr. Eastman was the purchaser, and for eight years "Old Tom" has been one of the attractions at Eastman's place. He has been in the harness nearly every day, and to all appearances is yet in his prime. His special work is drawing the lawn mower, and so well educated is he to the duty that he has frequently, for the gratification of lookers-on, been left to perform the work without driver or guide.

Every one knows that a body of snow, however pure, becomes black when it is melted. But this does not arise from the mud or dust on the ground, but comes from the atmosphere. This can be proved by putting a lump of new fallen snow under a glass bell; it will appear black as soon as it commences to melt, and on examining this pile of particles with the microscope they are found to be of every conceivable variety. To form an idea of the quantity of these atmospheric sweepings, look at the particles in a sunbeam and then compute how many a shower of snow can bring down. This also explains why a layer of earth can so quickly collect on a bare rock.

Is Snow a Fertilizer?

The following is the opinion of the Agricola on this disputed subject:

Snow is a good fertilizer, because it is a bad conductor of heat, and in preserving plants from the cold renders the action of the manure contained in the soil more powerful. But this is not all. Dr. Poncheur, a French chemist, has observed that the purest snow always left a black residuum. He examined this and found it contained particles which had been held in suspension in the air, and the first fall of snow contains the greatest number of these, which, collecting around the plants, form an almost invisible but very fruitful manure. This soil, which is brought from the air by the snow, is not visible, as one might suppose.

Every one knows that a body of snow, however pure, becomes black when it is melted. But this does not arise from the mud or dust on the ground, but comes from the atmosphere. This can be proved by putting a lump of new fallen snow under a glass bell; it will appear black as soon as it commences to melt, and on examining this pile of particles with the microscope they are found to be of every conceivable variety. To form an idea of the quantity of these atmospheric sweepings, look at the particles in a sunbeam and then compute how many a shower of snow can bring down. This also explains why a layer of earth can so quickly collect on a bare rock.

Proper Mode of Feeding Horses.

The Massachusetts Plowman has the following: Every owner of a horse must have observed that the growth and strength and appearance of the horse's foot is materially affected by the condition of the horse himself. A half-starved horse may have a foot injured by deficient nutrition; an over-fed horse may have a foot heated into an inflammation; and so dependent is the foot upon a healthy state of the animal economy, that for the foot alone, if nothing else the diet of the horse should be regulated with the utmost regard to his health.

I am confident that we give our horses too much grain and too little hay—especially horses under seven years of age, who will work with more endurance and courage on a good supply of grain—or the latter say six quarts of oats and a pint of grain daily. Older horses require and will bear more grain—but even they want more hay than is usually given.

Every horse should pass a few weeks of each year without grain, either the first half or the last half of the winter. And this mode of feeding can be adopted without suspending the animal's work.

On Town Grange Seeds.

The average number of cigars smoked each hour in the United States is 5,168,000.

During the last fiscal year the import duty on cigars amounted to \$6,150,000.41. The total amount of taxes on cigars in currency was \$33,242,875.62. Grand total, \$33,392,366.03.

The increased taxes on cigars, which have just gone into effect, will doubtless in no wise lessen the consumption.

A Drawer's Right to Stop a Check.

The London Economist reports a late decision of the English Court of Exchequer Chamber as follows:

The decision is to the effect that a check is to be treated as any other bill of exchange, rendering the drawer liable to be sued upon it, if unpaid, by any bona fide holder, who is not affected by an "equity" attaching to the party to whom or on whose account the check was given.

The recent death of the three brothers Deafield in this city, aged respectively eighty-one, eighty-three, and eighty-five, and their burial on the same day, has probably never been paralleled in this country, and perhaps not in the world.

An instance somewhat similar, however, occurred in New Haven on the 19th of February last, when William C Atwater, aged eighty-one, and his sister, Miss Martha Atwater, died on the same day, and the funeral of both took place at the same time on the Sunday following.

A lease for 999 years has just run out in England. The land is at Woolwich, and was Church property a thousand years ago, but the Crown leased it for military purposes; it now reverts to the heirs of the original holders.

On Town Grange Seeds.

COUNCIL BLUFFS, March 6.—Springville Grange of Pottawattamie county to-day declared themselves free and independent from all authority of the National and State Granges, and that their connection therewith is dissolved. The grievance alleged was that the officers of these Granges had forfeited all confidence, mismanaged the finances, and otherwise wronged them.

A Detroit boy's composition: "The horse runs; so does the Gazelle; so does my nose."

Legal Blanks

PRINTED ON SHORT NOTICE.

Address

WHIG AND CHRONICLE**Job Office****THE ONLY****STEAM POWER****OFFICE**

IN EAST TENNESSEE.

The Largest Collection of Late**Style Type****The Most Improved Hand and****Steam Presses.****The Most Skillful Work-****men.****Most Complete Print-****ing Office in Ten-****nnessee,**

OUTSIDE OF MEMPHIS OR NASH-

VILLE.

We keep constantly on hand a Superior As-

sortment of

LETTER AND NOTE PAPER,**Bill Heads,****Statements,****Business Cards,****ENVELOPES OF ALL SIZES.**

We have also a large stock of paper suitable

for all kinds of

Blanks, Circulars, Posters,**Pamphlets, &c., &c.****Our Steam Power Presses**

Parties desiring ANY JOB WORK need not

call at the Book Stores for Paper, Cards, or Sticks

of any kind, as we are ready to furnish material

at first cost. AND DO THE PRINTING AS